Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 01176 131800Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05
TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 /091 W
----------042555 131804Z /72
O 131633Z JUN 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7454
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 1176

BRUSSELS FOR ASST. SECY MOOSE

DEPT PASS FOR SECDEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SF, WA, PORG
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: BOTHA'S REACTION TO LUANDA SUMMIT

REFS: (A) CAPE TOWN 1175, (B) USUN 2415

1. FOLLOWING ARE MY PERSONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPLEMENT
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PAGE 02 CAPE T 01176 131800Z

REPORT OF CAPE TOWN CONTACT GROUP REPS ON
JUNE 13 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA (REF A).

2. BOTHA'S REACTION TO OUR REPORT COULD BEST BE
CHARACTERIZED AS FAIRLY CAREFULLY CONTROLLED. WHILE HE
ADOPTED AN EXPRESSION SOMEWHERE BETWEEN ANGER AND GLOOM,
THERE WAS NO BLUSTERING, AND I FOUND HIM MILD IN COMPARISON

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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WITH REPORTS I HAD READ OF PREVIOUS SESSIONS HERE AND
ENCOUNTERS I OBSERVED IN WASHINGTON. WHILE ALL THE MEMBERS
OF THE CAPE TOWN FIVE AGREED THAT IT WAS HARD TO DRAW ANY
SUBSTANTIVE CONCLUSIONS ABOUT SAG POSITIONS SOLELY
FROM TODAY'S CONVERSATION, IT APPEARED THAT THE SAG'S
GREATEST IMMEDIATE FOCUS OF CONCERN WAS ON THE LOCATION OF
TROOPS. ANY WESTERN TENDENCY TO BACK AWAY FROM OUR FORMAL
PROPOSAL WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE TAKEN BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS
AS CREATING AN ENTIRELY NEW SITUATION.

3. WHEN HE CHARGED THAT SWAPO IS PREPARING TO INVADE
NAMIBIA, BOTHA SAID HE HAD GIVEN INFORMATION TO ONE OF THE
MEMBERS OF THE GROUP ABOUT PLANS FOR THE INVASTION OF
SHABA. (WE HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF THE LATTER, BUT KNOWING
BOTHA'S PENCHENT FOR RHETORIC OF THIS SORT AND THE FACT
THAT THERE HAD BEEN NUMEROUS PRE-SHABA REPORTS OF KATANGESE
PLOTTING, I DO NOT BELIEVE ANY OF THE FIVE GAVE BOTHA'S
COMMENT MUCH SIGNIFICANCE). S.A. POLITICAL LEADERS ARE
CLEARLY DISTURBED BY THEIR FEELING THAT SWAPO IS NEVER
CRITICIZED FOR ITS MILITANT STATEMENTS ABOUT "LIBERATING"
NAMIBIA, OR FOR ITS ORGANIZATION OF GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES,
WHEREAS SOUTH AFRICA IS CRITICIZED FOR ANY ACTIONS IT
TAKES. AFTER WE MADE OUR POINT ABOUT S.A. TAKING NO ACTION
THAT MIGHT DISTURB EMERGING SUPPORT FOR THE SETTLEMENT,
BOTHA ASKED, "MUST I BE PENALIZED BECAUSE I HAVE ACCEPTED
THE PROPOSALS? WOULD IT BE BETTER IF WE REJECTED THE
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PAGE 03 CAPE T 01176 131800Z

PROPOSALS AND CONTINUED WARFARE AGAINST THE TERRORISTS?"

5. FOURIE TOOK AS FIRM A STAND AS BOTHA ON THE MATTER OF
SOUTH AFRICA'S BEING URGED TO TAKE NO ACTION THAT MIGHT
ERODE SUPPORT FOR THE SETTLEMENT, BUT HE SEEMED CAREFUL
TO MAKE CLEAR THAT NO ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN YET TO
REGISTER VOTERS. WHILE THE SAG HAS STILL NOT MADE ITS
EXPECTED STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT, ONE PRESS SOURCE SAYS
IT DECIDED TO POSTPONE ACTION TO JUNE 14. BOTHA'S VERY
STRONG ASSERTION THAT VOTER REGISTRATION ACTION WOULD NOT
AFFECT THE FIVE'S SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS GAVE US THE
IMPRESSION THAT THERE WILL BE AN ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING
VOTER REGISTRATION VERY SOON IN ANY CASE.
EDMONDSON

NOTE BY OC/T: CAPE TOWN 1176 NOT PASSED TO SECDEL

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NNN

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20 Mar 2014
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